



File Code: 2210

Date: 23 May, 2011

**CERTIFIED MAIL –
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
NUMBER:**

Dear Alicia;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **North Sulphur, Johnson Creek, Henry Olsen (includes Sheep Creek), Mabey Canyon, and Slug Creek Sheep Allotments**. These Instructions are a guide for management of these allotments during the **2011** grazing season. We have also included your Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Soda Springs Ranger District by November **30**.

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

1. Permittee and Permitted Livestock

Listed below are the permittees on the allotment, permitted numbers, and livestock class.

Allotment	Permitted Season	Permitted Numbers	Authorized Numbers	Authorized Season	Unit Rotation
North Sulphur	6/16 - 9/5	1050	850ewe/lmb	Same	Clockwise
Johnson Creek	6/16 - 9/5	1050	700 mixed	as	Clockwise
Henry Olsen	6/16 - 9/5	1000	1000 yrlngr	Permitted	Clockwise
Mabey Canyon	6/21 - 9/15	1000	900 drys	Season	Clockwise
Slug Creek	6/18 - 9/20	1100	950ewe/lmb	“	Clockwise

If you intend to take any non-use, it must be approved prior to the grazing season. As a reminder, you must own the livestock you place on the allotment. Leasing of livestock is a violation of your term grazing permit and will result in the cancellation of your permit.

2. Grazing Rotation

This year all allotments will be grazed in a clockwise direction

3. Grazing Standards and Guidelines

Standards and Guides covering these allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest* or the *2005 Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide* and are now made part of your permit.

Riparian Utilization Standards In the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ)



Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition	Functioning at Risk (high to Moderate) % Stubble height	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non-Functioning) % Stubble height	Non Functioning (States C&D) % Stubble height
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

Stream Rating Table

Stream	Type of Riparian (Lotic) Area	% Herbaceous Utilization in AIZ
Gravel Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Olsen Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Daves Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Sheep Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Kendall Cyn.Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Campbell Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Hornet Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Stewart Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Trail Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Johnson. Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Wood Cyn. Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35
Slug Cr.	Proper Functioning	65/55/45
Cold Spring Cr.	Functioning-at-Risk	55/45/35

Upland Utilization Standards for the Jouglard/Dredge Sheep Allotments

Allowed Upland Forage Utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and Herbaceous Species(% Dry Weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (Annual Leader Growth)	10	20	35

Upland standards on the allotment are shown in the table above. Use in the uplands is dependent on location relevant to wildlife winter range. If an area is considered critical winter range, use levels for the uplands is 35%. Non critical winter range is allowed to be used up to 45%, and non winter range is allowed to be used up to 55%.

Winter Range Within the Allotments

Allotment	Type of Winter Range	% Use Allowed	Area of Winter Range
North Sulphur	Critical	35%	Soda Front
Johnson Creek	No winter range	55%	
Henry Olsen	Non-critical	45%	Western ½ of allotment
Mabey Canyon	Non-critical	45%	Portion of N. Mabey Canyon
Slug Creek	Non-critical	45%	NE portion of Allotment

See the attached maps for the specific areas within each allotment.

As the season progresses Forest Personnel will routinely check the range conditions within your allotments. If their monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage, or that other resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts early removal of the livestock from the allotment may be necessary. If the Forest Service requires you to remove your livestock from the allotment before the end of your permitted grazing season you may be eligible for a credit toward next years grazing fees. This credit must be requested in writing when you turn in your Actual Use Form in the fall.

4. Special Instructions.

- Once over grazing will be used on this allotment. After the sheep have grazed an area they are not allowed to graze the re-growth on that area later in the grazing season.
- The sheep are not allowed to use a bedding area more than once. Bed them in a new area each night.
- Sheep should not be allowed to shade up close to watering areas. If the sheep are watered early in the day it is not difficult to move them away from the water before they shade up.
- Do not salt near water, trails, or in the same location twice. If possible place the salt on rocks, in salt troughs, or in salt logs.
- Herders must keep their camps clean. The camp must be left clean when the herder changes camp locations; all salt bags and other trash must be removed when the herder leaves.
- This year all AOI's will again be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accept the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.
- Reforestation plantations are located on the Henry/Olsen Allotment. **No grazing or bedding of your sheep is allowed in the closed plantations (Until trees are greater than four feet tall).** A Forest Service employee will be monitoring the plantations. If plantations seedlings are damaged in the closed plantations because of your sheep management, you could be responsible financially to replant these areas and additional permit action may occur. Within the open reforestation plantation, no salting or bedding is allowed and once-over-light grazing is allowed.

- Escape ramps for small animals and birds are required in all watering troughs.
- The sheep are not allowed to graze on any of the mine dumps due to the potential of high levels of selenium in the vegetation. You should also avoid watering the sheep and horses in Mabey Creek below the dump if possible.
- You will be allowed to cross the Mabey Canyon mine dump to get your sheep to the allotments on the Montpelier District as long as there is a Forest Service representative present. Once the sheep enter Mabey Canyon they must be kept moving until they are across the dump. They are not to rest, water, or graze; just move through. Let us know at least 3 days prior to crossing the dump so we can arrange to have someone there.

5. Wolf Recovery Management:

The following statement came from the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

Current Legal Status

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

6. Permittee Responsibilities

- A. *Salting*** - Salt should be placed in lightly used areas and used as a distribution tool. Salt is not permitted in riparian areas, forest plantations, shade-up areas, roads, or areas where cattle normally tend to congregate. Use of a packhorse is recommended to get salt into areas that receive light use. Rotate or remove salt from areas receiving excessively heavy use.
- B. *Herding*** – Herders should keep the sheep in new feed each day. The sheep should bed and water in new areas daily.
- C. *Weed-free hay*** - Any hay or straw brought on the Forest must be certified, "weed free".
- D. *Maintaining Improvements*** - All improvements listed in part 3 of your permit must meet Forest Service Standards. A delay in livestock turnout on your allotment will result if

improvements do not meet acceptable standards prior to the grazing season. If they are not up to standard, and your livestock are on the allotment, administrative action may be taken against your permit. Maintenance work should be completed prior to cattle entering the allotment and to the standards listed below:

a. *Fence Maintenance Standards*

Wire

- Broken wires should be spliced or replaced. Wire spacing and height should be consistent with the original construction.
- Loose wire should be re-stretched. Damaged clips and stays need to be replaced. Wire that is breaking frequently should be replaced.

Posts

- Damaged and rotted wood posts will be replaced. Posts that have been pushed over by snow or wire tension need to be reset.
- Bent steel posts need to be straightened or replaced.

Braces

- Loose or missing brace wires need to be tightened or replaced.
- Damaged or rotten brace posts will be replaced. Straighten and reset any posts that have settled or are crooked.

Let-Down Fences

- Let-down fences will be put up before the beginning of the grazing season and taken down at the end of the grazing season.
- The let-down design of the fence will be maintained. Retighten let-down spans that have loose wire, replace broken stays, and replace missing staples or wire loops.

b. *Water Development Maintenance Standards*

Springboxes

- Sediment and foreign objects need to be removed from headboxes.
- Damaged headbox covers need to be repaired or replaced.
- Repair any damaged fence around springs.
- A galvanized screen must be kept on the intake pipe in the headbox. Replace and repair screens as needed.
- Water should be kept in the trough throughout the grazing season.

Pipelines and Troughs

- Cracked or broken pipelines need to be replaced. Clean plugged pipelines.
- Drain pipes must be kept open, operating, and able to drain overflow at least 20 feet away from trough.
- Clean sediment from troughs. Repair and clean overflows and float valves. Level troughs and reset when needed. Replace broken trough braces.
- Wildlife escape ramps need to be installed in every water trough, contact your Forest range manager to obtain these ramps.

Stock Ponds and Reservoirs

- Clean stock water ponds and spillways of debris, dead animals, etc.
- When siltation builds to one half the capacity of the pond, it must be cleaned.

E. Completion of Forms

Please read and follow the general instructions in your folder, **complete the Actual Use Form and return this folder to us by November 30.** Read the instructions on Part 2 of your Term Grazing Permit.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, feel free to call me or any of the range staff on the zone. Our phone numbers are as follows.

	Office	Cell
Jack Isaacs District Ranger	208) 547-4356	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	208) 547-1108 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7328
Vic Bradfield Range Specialist	208) 547-1107 208) 547-4356	208) 313-7904 208) 220-2814

Sincerely,

/S/ JACK L. ISAACS

23 MAY, 2011

JACK L. ISAACS
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions
Soda Springs Ranger District
North Sulphur, Johnson Creek, Henry Olsen (includes Sheep Creek), Mabey
Canyon, and Slug Creek Sheep Allotments.
2011**



Accepted By:

/S/ Alicia Dredge by Milt Ward

Alicia Dredge

5/02/2011

Date

Approved By:

/S/ Jack L. Isaacs

**Jack L Isaacs
District Ranger**

5/23/2011

Date